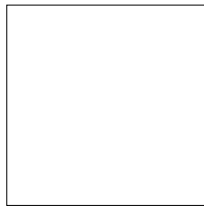


Do you have a story to share? Is there something you would like to learn about?
Send your ideas to info@washingtonaccessfund.org!

Want to earn a grant for assistive technology?



Thanks to the generous support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Access Fund is excited to announce the launch of a new Assistive Technology Individual Development Account (IDA) Demonstration

Project. Through this program, low-income individuals with disabilities will be able to save up to \$4,000 and receive an equal amount in match for purchases of assistive technology needed for any purpose - education, employment, community living, recreation, health and safety for example. The Demonstration Project will build upon our experience in offering Assistive Technology and Business Equipment IDAs for work related activities. It will be one of the first in the country to offer Assistive Technology matched savings accounts for independent living and education as well as employment. In addition to the match, participants will receive financial education and assistive technology training. We have a limited number of accounts available! These will be filled on a first come, first served basis so please apply early!

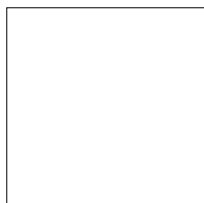
A BIG thanks to the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation who awarded \$4.6 million in grants for various asset building initiatives, [click here to read the Press Release!](#)

Business Equipment IDA slots are still available! Looking for funding for

equipment you need for your small business? We are still recruiting participants for our Business Equipment IDA Program which also offers up to \$4,000 in match for purchases of assistive technology or business equipment needed for employment or self-employment.

For more information on eligibility, requirements for both programs, and to download an application, please give us a call at 206-328-5116 or visit the: [Access Fund's IDA Page](#).

Another big THANKS

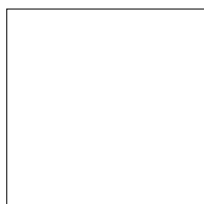


to the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia for their low interest investment of \$50,000 in the Access Fund - to be used to support and finance our low-interest loan programs! The Sisters of St. Francis is a congregation of 500 Catholic women religious dedicated to improving the

"social and economic well-being of financially at-risk communities." They are among a number of religious organizations that put their pension funds on the line to support community lending and microfinance throughout the world. Click the following link to learn more about the: [Sisters of St. Francis](#).

Want to know who else supports the Access Fund? [Click here to find out!](#)

Happy Valentine's Day!



Chocolate Myracles creates exciting and delicious gourmet truffles, chocolate bars, chocolate bears, and other unique chocolate items. Surprise those you love with some edible fun! Julia Balassa-Miracle is a master chocolatier and client of the Access Fund. Julia's

chocolates are available at boutiques located in the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene area and are also available for online orders at:

www.chocolatemyracles.com. Create your own box today!

Let's do the numbers

- Number of Loans to Date: 316
- Total \$ Outstanding: \$303,674
- Total \$ Loaned: \$1,091,884

- Repayment Rate: 97.5%
 - Average Loan Size: \$3,575
-

Volunteer of the Month



Meet Zach Purcell, volunteer member of the Access Fund family since the summer of 2010. Zach found that he really resonated with the Access Fund mission and knew it would be a good fit. *"I thought it was great how you help people get the assistive technology they need."* Zach has tried an array of technologies and has been a particularly avid user of [Wynn Reader](#) (a device that scans and reads documents).

Zach is currently a student at Bellevue College and likes to stay active in the community by volunteering at various organizations. *"Volunteering benefits me in the long-run by giving me new skills that are transferrable. I'll be able to use them in the work place. My dream job is to be a math teacher for high school students or adults in continuing education."* While Zach is excited about the opportunities that come with a new year, what he'll miss when school is back in session, *"is not working here."*

Zach, thank you so much for all that you've done - your work is tremendously appreciated!!

February Resources



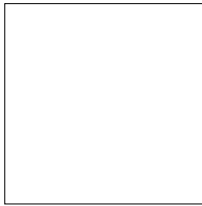
Job Development Webinar, for individuals with significant disabilities will be put on by the [Washington Initiative for Supported Employment](#). Customizing Jobs Around Lives, Instead of the Other Way Around. Presenters will incorporate this strategy to offer a customized approach to reach employers and market individuals, regardless of their level of support needs. They will cover techniques to approach businesses and promote job candidates with significant developmental disabilities. This 3 part series occurs on Feb. 24, March 10 and March 17. To learn more about the training and to register, please visit: [W.i.S.e. Job Development Webinar](#).

2011 Special Education Conference, "Improving Services and Results for Students with Disabilities." The conference is all day from March 9th-11th with many courses to choose from. To view the full conference schedule, for

more information and to register online, visit: www.rehabseminars.org.

Self employed? Let StartZone take the stress out of taxes this year! StartZone offers free tax preparation workshops and filing assistance to self-employed individuals in King County. For more information, please visit the following link: <https://startzone.highline.edu/sz/seti.php>.

Want more updates and news? Friend us on Facebook to see more resource shout-outs, news clippings and updates. We love getting feedback from our clients, partners and friends - so feel free to "like" us and comment away!



Our mission is to promote access to technology and economic opportunity for individuals with disabilities in Washington State. The Washington Access Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

Washington Access Fund provides: [Assistive Technology Loans](#), [Business Equipment Loans](#), [CCTV Rentals](#), and [Matched Savings IDAs](#)

